

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T STATE 069121

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 1536 ACTION STATE ANKARA ATHENS
BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LISBON LUXEMBOURG OSLO OTTAWA
PARIS REYKJAVIK ROME NATO MAR 25

QUOTE

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1536

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, NL
SUBJ: EC-9 ACTIVITY RE PORTUGUESE SITUATION

FOR ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN

1. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN ASKED DCM TO
SEE HIM MORNING OF MARCH 25 RE PORTUGUESE DEVELOP-
MENTS. RUTTEN SHOWED DCM TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM
DUBLIN (WHICH RUTTEN SAID HAD BEEN PROMPTLY DISTRIBUTED
TO ALL OTHER EC-9 CAPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING
EC-9 PROCEDURE) WHICH INCORPORATED A LETTER OF MARCH 23
FROM THE SECRETARY TO FONMIN FITZGERALD IN HIS EC-9

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PRESIDENCY CAPACITY. BUL OF LETTER INCORPORATED APPROVED

US TALKING POINTS (STATE 065523) AND CLOSED WITH A BRIEF PARAGRAPH TO THE EFFECT AHT THE SECRETARY WAS SENDING SIMILAR MESSAGES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE UK, FRG, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND ITALY. RUTTEN SAID FONMIN VAN DER STOEL HAD BEEN VERY MUCH SURPRISED BY THE OMISSION OF THE NETHERLANDS AND WONDERED WHAT CRITERIA HAD BEEN USED IN SELECTING RECIPIENTS IN ADDITION TO THE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTEER. DID THE DEPARTMENT THINK THAT THE NETHERLANDS WAS LESS RELEVANT TO THE PRESENT PORTUGUESE SITUATION THAN THE OTHER ADDRESSEES?

2. DCM REPLIED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF A MESSAGE RE POTUGAL FROM THE SECRETARY TO CERTAIN EC FONMINS. PERHAPS BECUASE OF THE GREAT PRESSURE UNDER WHICH PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN WORKING BECAUSE OF THE SUDDEN EMERGENCE OF ALRMING PROSPECTS IN LISBON, THE OMISSION OF THE NETHERLANDS WAS AN OVERSIGHT. IN ANY EVENT, DCM SAID HE WOULD, AS REQUESTED BY RUTTEN, BRING THIS MATTER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION AND ADK FOR ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT WAS IN A POSITION TO MAKE.

3. ON IMPENDING DEVELOPMENTS RUTTEN SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO JOINT EC-9 APPROACH TO LISBON. THE NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR WHO HAD SEEN SOARES MARCH 24 IN A MEETING THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED ON MARCH 25 TO MAKE A BILATERAL APPROACH TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. RUTTEN WAS INFORMED THAT AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI WAS SCHEDULED SEE COSTA GOMES AFTERNOON OF MARCH 25. DCM PROMISED TO FILL RUTTEN IN ON HIS CONVERSATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE INSTANT CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF WHICH THE EC-9 ARE CAPABLE, WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT OUR DUTCH FRIENDS WILL NOT LONG BE IGNORANT OF ANY US MOVES TO WHICH WE MAKE THE EC-9 PRESIDENCY PRIVY. IDEALLY, THE DUTCH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY US APPROACH WHICH GOES BEYOND ONE OR TWO OF THE EC-9, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT THIS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE. IN THE PRESENT
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CASE IT WAS THE INCLUSION OF BRUSSELS WHICH PUSHED THE DUTCH PAST THEIR "IRRITATION THRESHOLD", ALTHOUGH AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION THEY ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT US ACCORDING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO THE THREE OR FOUR LARGER EC-9 MEMBERS. SINCE THE DUTCH DO WANT TO BE HELPFUL ON PORTUGAL AND MAY NOT BE WITHOUT SOME ENTREE TO THE PRESENT TURBULENT SITUATION, WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE US WITH SOME HELPFUL AND

REASSURING COMMENTS TO RELAY TO THEM. GOULD UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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